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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/874,355	06/06/2001	Tomonari Sendai	Q64810	2938
7590	10/12/2006		EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20037-3213			SMITH, RUTH S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3737	

DATE MAILED: 10/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/874,355	SENDAI, TOMONARI	
Examiner	Art Unit		
Ruth S. Smith	3737		

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 September 2006.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-7,9-16,18-27,29-42 and 44-46 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 8,17,28 and 43 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) Other: _____.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 5, 2006 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,2,9-11,18,19,29,30,32,33,34,44,45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al. Wang et al. disclose a method for obtaining a computed, or ratioed, fluorescent light image and assigning color thereto to form a tissue-state (probability of dysplasia) and tissue-form ("contour lines" to highlight areas to be targeted for biopsy) image (0075) (see also fig. 9 and 10 and (0105) regarding fluorescence images conveying additional tissue-form information). Wang et al disclose assigning one of color and brightness to the reflected image and forming an overlaid (inherently matching the number of pixels) fluorescence and reflectance image. With respect to the recitation that the tissue-state image and the tissue-form image are initially separate images, in the absence of any showing of criticality, the intermediate product used to form the composite image would have been an obvious design choice.

Claims 3-6,12-15,20-26,35-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al as applied to claims 1,9,18,32 above, and further in view of Kaneko et al. Wang et al do not explicitly address assigning display gradation based on a statistical quantity. In the same field of endeavor, Kaneko et al. teaches that it is known to assign display gradation based on the maximum value and frequency

(histogram) of the brightness levels of the image signals (col. 17 lines 3-20) to indicate normal or non- normal tissue. Kaneko further discloses using color discrimination scales and LUTS (inherently composed of a plurality of multiplication factors, or coefficients). See col. 16. lines 21-29. Further regarding claims 24 and 39, it is inherent that the computation circuit (141) of Kaneko et al processes data converted from the CCD in the form of 8 bits or less. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person of ordinary skill in the art to assign the display gradation of Wang et al. based on statistical quantities, or histograms, of the image signals as demonstrated by Kaneko et al. to eliminate artifacts and provide enhanced visual discrimination between normal and diseased tissues and as is known in the art.

Claims 7,16,27,42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al as applied to claims 1,9,18,32 above, and further in view of Zeng et al. Wang et al. differ from the claimed invention in that the color data being a chromaticity is not discussed expressly. In the same field of endeavor, Zeng et al. demonstrates that assignment of colors based on a chromaticity system is well known (col. 9 lines 1-28, fig. 5). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use a chromaticity system as demonstrated by Zeng et al. for assignment of colors in the invention of Wang et al. as is well established in the art.

Claims 31,46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al as applied to claims 18,32 above, and further in view of Hayashi et al. Wang et al. differ from the claimed invention in that a GaN type laser is not specifically addressed for providing UV excitation. In the same field of endeavor, Hayashi et al. discloses that the use of a GaN semiconductor laser for providing excitation between 380-440 nm is inexpensive, has a long lifetime, and high efficiency output (col. 3 lines 26-33 and col. 12 lines 39-45). It would have therefore been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person of ordinary skill in the art to use a GaN laser as taught by Hayashi et al. to provide UV excitation in the invention as taught by Wang et al for the above described reasons.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8,17,28,43 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7,9-16,18-27,29-42,44-46 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth S. Smith whose telephone number is 571-272-4745. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30 AM-4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Casler can be reached on 571-272-4956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Ruth S. Smith
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3737